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Duxbury Clipper

A visit with Jim Savicki

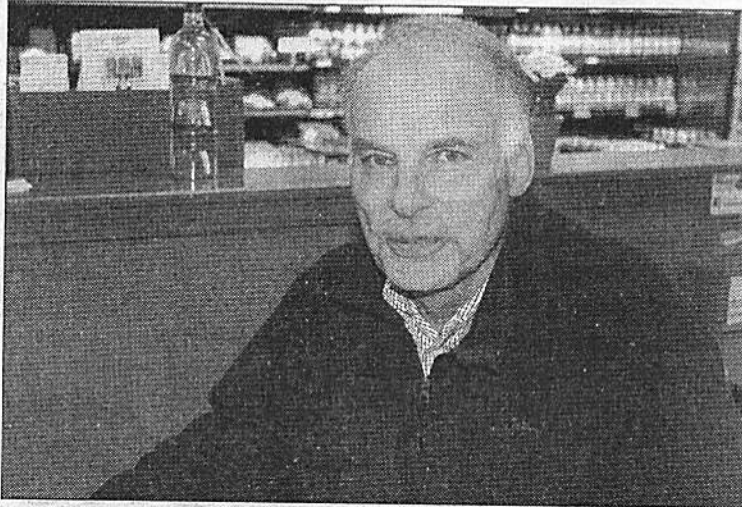
Sustainable Duxbury pushes to keep town green

BY SARAH COUGLIN, CLIPPER CONTRIBUTOR

Sustainable Duxbury was established six years ago with the mission "to encourage Duxbury to become more sustainable by informing ourselves and the community about practical energy saving measures." As a dedicated member, Jim Savicki devotes a good deal of his time and energy to what has now become much more of a passion than a hobby.

How did you get involved in Sustainable Duxbury? I saw something about it in the paper; I had recently retired from teaching and thought it would be interesting. A couple of years before retiring, I was teaching high school math and was collaborating with a science teacher on a curriculum where kids could apply science and math to current events. A big focus was on global warming. Teaching that class opened my eyes to the whole thing. When I saw Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," it crystallized everything for me and I thought I should get involved in helping people to understand what's going on in the world. So I did.

How many members are there? I'm one of 25 members. It's an interesting cross-section of members, from high school up to age 83 — some conservative, some liberal, they cross all paths.



Jim Savicki of Sustainable Duxbury says that the film "An Inconvenient Truth" crystalized many of his beliefs about environmental issues. The group has led projects around Duxbury such as getting solar panels installed at Chandler and a "hydration station" at the high school.

JIM SAVICKI

SUSTAINABLE DUXBURY

Family: wife, Donna and son, Charles

Favorite Book: Game Change (or anything by Bill McKibben)

Favorite Movie: The Deer Hunter

Favorite Hobby: cycling, sailing, scuba diving, photography, skiing, golf

Pet Peeve: People who park their cars/trucks and don't turn off the engine

Station at DHS in February. It's a UV filtered Brita water dispenser. We hope that in the new school there will be no machines selling water at all.

Have Duxbury residents been open to energy saving measures? I think so, for the most part.

Have there been any challenges? People have been saying for a long time that global warming is a bunch of hooey, but their perceptions change. When I first bought my Prius in 2004 a lot of people were curious about it, because gas prices were so high then. But then no one cared for a while. Just recently people have been asking about it again (as gas prices rise); when it hits you in the pocketbook, people tend to pay more attention.

Have town gov't officials been supportive of Sustainable Duxbury? At first, no... but overall, yes. Once we put up the solar panels at Chandler, people started to take us more seriously.

What is the No. 1 change you'd like to see take place? I'd like people to be more aware of how their actions now could be influencing the world that their kids are going to grow up in.

What's the most effective change people can make on a daily basis? There are so many, all across the board. Don't buy bottled water, use reusable shopping bags, don't let your car sit idling, change out the bulbs in your house to compact fluorescents. Just take a look at all the things around you that you can do. Try and

raise your awareness.

What do you and your family do at home to live a greener life? Well, my wife now calls me "Mr. Green," let's put it that way.

What has been the most successful event to date? The solar panels at Chandler School were pretty huge. 210 families each contributed \$100 to the New England Wind Fund, who matched the donations. Island Creek Oysters helped out with an additional grant and together enabled the panels to be installed. You can look them up online and see how much energy has been produced. We also partnered with Island Creek Oysters in "greening up" their annual fall festival. We were successful in removing 90-95 percent of all the waste and either recycling or composting it. Even all of the oyster shells get sent to NH to be put back into oyster estuaries in the ocean, as part of a federally funded project.

Some towns in MA are taking measures to try and ban plastic water bottle sales altogether; do you see Duxbury trying to do the same? We've talked a lot about that. Rather than a ban, we prefer to educate people. We've given the Selectmen and the School Committee members reusable water bottles and have asked them to use them whenever they are on television, to remind members of the community to do so as well. We also, along with Island Creek Oysters, installed the Hydration

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